

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

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"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"

Phone: (651)602-7914
FAX: (651)602-7914

Transmitted via Email

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-57

SUBJECT: LTP - CONSERVATION PRACTICE ACTUAL COST DATA COLLECTION

Action Due By September 2, 2005

Purpose. To provide field staff with guidelines to collect practice cost data.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005

The National office is developing a revised scoring and ranking tool for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications effective with the Fiscal Year (FY)2006 sign-up. This tool will include data on the average annual cost to implement conservation practices. To prepare for this revised procedure and potential changes to the EQIP cost share docket for FY2006, actual practice cost data and corresponding information must be collected at the county level. The average practice cost data may also be used in other NRCS programs.

Attached to this bulletin is a spreadsheet with detailed instructions for field staff use in the collection of actual practice cost data. The cost data needed includes practices, as listed in the spreadsheet, which were installed and/or completed in 2004 and 2005, regardless of program. This can be data from State, NRCS, and/or Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs and/or practices installed without cost share. Each Field Office should enter no more than 10 data points of each practice. Where possible practice data points should represent a variety of practice sizes, complexities, and types (if applicable).

By September 2, 2005, each District Conservationist will submit a completed copy of the attached spreadsheet for their county to Leah Duzy, Agricultural Economist, leah.duzy@mn.usda.gov. The State Office will summarize the actual practice cost data and develop average practice cost information. The State Office will also supply each Area with a summarized version of data for their area.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Leah Duzy, 651-602-7867.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: SO (ECS), NRCS, St. Paul, MN
ASTC (FO), NRCS, Minnesota
ARCs, NRCS, Minnesota